

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Church Hills Phase 2

Proposal Number: 1478

DWR Region: Southern Region

Lead Agency: USFS

County: Millard

Project Manager: Tyler Monroe

PM Phone: 4358656113

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 8/15/2009

Project Location: The project area is located on the south end of the Canyon Mountain range and is approximately five miles north of the community of Holden, Utah.

Project Description: 614 acres of Lop and Scatter/Slashing to be followed by Rx Burn and Seeding in subsequent year.

Description of Problem/Need: Prior to any treatment this project area was at a two-fold risk: A) lower elevation areas--vegetation community conversion due to substantial pinyon/juniper invasion, and higher elevations--catastrophic wildfire due to high fuel loading of a predominately old growth mountain brush communities.

As a result of aggressive fire suppression over the last 150 years, these areas which were historically grass/shrub communities have been converted into pinyon/juniper woodlands and old growth Gambel oak stands. In an attempt to restore healthy conditions, the USFS is implementing the Church Hills Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project. For big game, the increase in pinyon/juniper cover has lowered winter range forage quality and availability. The sagebrush and mountain brush communities, critical to wintering mule deer are at risk of catastrophic wildfire and cheat grass invasion followed by short-duration annual grassland fire cycles.

Objectives: Goals:
1.Enhance Big Game and small fauna winter range forage and habitat areas.
2.Reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires in the area.
Objectives:
1.Increase desirable and palatable forbs, shrubs, and grasses in the area by 25-50 %.
2.Restore vegetation to an historic fire adapted shrub steppe ecosystem (condition class 1).

Relevance to Strategic Plans: This project is consistent with the Utah Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy in working to improve sagebrush-steppe and mountain brush habitats. Further, it is in line with the UDWR mule deer management plans to improve shrub-dominated winter range (UDWR Mule Deer Plan pg. 4 IIA. It will directly help achieve the habitat objective #2 of improving winter range quality on 200,000 acres.

This plan is consistent with the Fishlake National Forest Plan for wildlife habitat enhancement and fuels management. This project is part of a larger effort by the Forest to improve habitat, reduce fuel loading, and protect against catastrophic wildfire

Potential Risks: Risks associated with conducting this project are seeding failure, exotic plant (cheat grass) cover increasing and altering the fire frequency and intensity to a five-year burn cycle.

Proposed Methods: Contract for 614 acres of mechanical thinning utilizing Lop and Scatter/Slashing technique. Project area would be burned and seeding in a treatment the year following this treatment.

Shapefile Name: S:/DWR/HPD-2010/GIS Shape Files/1478.shp

Seed Source:

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: Monitoring work is already established and being evaluated. Photo points are in place and pre-treatment photos have been taken. Post-treatment photos will be taken and analyzed to determine if project objectives are met in 1, 3, 5, and 10 year photos.

Grazing Management:

SPECIES BENEFITING

Monday, March 16, 2009 1:09:56 PM

Project Proposal

Mule Deer	Elk	Rio Grande Wild Turkey	Bobcat
Black-tailed Jackrabbit	Small Mammals	Neotropical Birds	Brewer's Sparrow

LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
USFS	614
Total	614

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
Unfunded Balance	\$61,400.00		\$0.00
USFS	\$35,000.00		\$35,000.00
USFS	\$0.00		\$10,000.00
Totals	\$96,400.00		\$45,000.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Contractual Services	614 acres Lop and Scatter @ \$100/acre	\$61,400.00	\$0.00
NEPA	USFS NEPA prep.	\$0.00	\$35,000.00
Other	USFS Labor related to Phase 2	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
	Totals	\$61,400.00	\$45,000.00

Project Map:

